

# *Duddon Saint Peter's School*



## **Art and Pottery Safety**

### **HAZARDS**

- Inhalation of toxic vapours, irritation of the skin, burns to the skin and fire due to the flammable nature of some solvent based adhesives.
- Risk of fire is significant when using kilns, batik boilers etc. and flammable liquids such as paints and solvents.
- Sharp objects such as craft knives, guillotines etc.
- Toxic dust can be produced by certain clays and glazes etc. which can be harmful if inhaled.

### **CONTROL MEASURES**

#### **SPRAY PAINTS**

- Most ordinary paints used in school art lessons are of low toxicity and do not present a risk in use. There is occasional use of spray paints. These contain solvents, which can be highly flammable; they also present health risks. They should be used only in well-ventilated areas for short durations, and there should also be no sources of ignition.

#### **POTTERY KILNS**

- No flammable material should be stored or used in or adjacent to the kiln.
- Fire fighting equipment must be available and not obstructed.
- A device controls the temperature of operation.
- The kiln is located in in the boiler room, out of reach of children.
- An indicator shows that the kiln is in operation.
- The operating instructions are in the kiln room and include start-up, operating and shut down and emergency procedure
- Severe burns can be inflicted and considerable damage to a kiln can result if a kiln is suddenly opened at a high temperature. Kilns should not be opened at temperatures above 250°C or unloaded until the ware has totally cooled.
- Great care should be exercised when viewing through spy or bugholes. The procedure for dealing with burns should be known by all appropriate staff.
- A formal examination will be required by a specialist maintenance contractor at least once every three years.
- Kilns must have an interlock to prevent the door being opened when the power supply is switched on.

### **CLAY, GLAZES ETC.**

- Floors should be swept by a wet method or using an industrial vacuum cleaner.
- All working surfaces should be cleaned by a wet method.
- Clay dropped on the floor should be removed at once.
- Hands should be washed after using clay.
- Only glazes approved for use in schools should be used.

### **BATIK BOILERS**

- Ensure the plug is wired correctly and fitted with the correct fuse. A member of staff should inspect the boiler before use and it should be included in the annual combined inspection and test of electrical equipment.
- Avoid use of extension leads where possible.
- Place equipment in such a position that trailing leads cannot cause equipment to be 'pulled over'.
- Place equipment on a fire proof surface.
- Do not operate the boiler near highly flammable liquids or in damp rooms.
- Ensure the boiler is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensure there is sufficient wax in the boiler before switching it on. Generally this is between one half and three quarters full but, check manufacturer instructions.
- Wear safety spectacles or goggles.
- Do not move the boiler while the wax is in liquid form.
- Do not leave the boiler switched on or unattended.
- Remove wax from lid and side of the boiler with a cloth immediately after use. Do not wash or immerse in water.
- Ensure pupils work under supervision of an adult.

### **SOLVENT BASED GLUES**

- These glues can be both toxic and flammable. Most are hazardous substances and therefore must comply with COSHH Regulations.
- Understand the hazard warning symbols on containers and follow the instructions.
- They should be used only where there is not a safer alternative.
- If used they must be in well ventilated areas and quantities should be kept to a minimum.
- Wallpaper paste containing a fungicide is not suitable for use by young pupils.

### **SUPER GLUES**

- Super glues are not considered suitable for use in primary schools curriculum.

### **HOT GLUE GUNS**

- Hot glue guns should be of the low temperature type (usually stated on the gun) and only used under supervision.
- Low temperature glue sticks are usually oval in cross-section.
- Read the manufacturers instructions before use and ensure all staff are aware of the instructions.
- Hot glue guns should be used over a piece of hardboard or other similar place mat. Stands are available to support them.

- Burns from hot glue can be more serious because the glue remains in contact with the skin and pupils could make matters worse by trying to remove it and burning their hands. In the event of a burn immerse the area in cold water for at least 20 minutes. It is easy to underestimate the time which hot glue can retain heat, it is important to prolong the treatment with water.

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